GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1159
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2015
Pollution by Power Projects
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that power projects are spreading pollution in the environment including in Andhra Pradesh;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the same; and
(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to minimize the level of pollution due to such projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)&(b) Thermal power plants are covered under the 17 category of highly polluting industries. As on April 30, 2015, there are 151 coal based thermal power plants in the country having total installed capacity of about 165000 MW including 05 thermal power plants in Andhra Pradesh and all plants have provided air and water pollution control systems.

(c)&(d) In order to check pollution from power plants, surprise inspections are carried out by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and respective State Pollution Control Boards. Based on the inspections conducted by CPCB under its under Environmental Surveillance Squad (ESS) programme, directions have been issued to 10 non-compliant thermal power plants under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to ensure compliance with emission/ effluent standards. Besides, the thermal plants have been directed to install online monitoring systems by June 30, 2015. Following steps have taken to reduce pollution level from thermal power plants:

1. Developed & notified National Ambient Air Quality Standards and source emission (particulate matter) and effluent standards for control of air & water pollution.

2. More stringent environment standards are contemplated to mitigate pollution from thermal power plants.

3. To minimise dust generation, power plants located beyond 750 kms from pit head have been directed to use beneficiated coal not containing ash more than 34%.

4. In order to mitigate problems related to flyash disposal such as land degradation, fugitive dust emission from ash ponds, flyash utilization has been made mandatory since September 14, 1999.

5. Promotion of clean technologies like Super Critical and Fluidized Bed Combustion boilers which generate low emission as compared to conventional pulverized fired sub- critical technology

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